GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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WHEN THE FIRE ALARM SOUNDS IN SMYRNA THIS APPARATUS RESPONDS

This particular equipment helped fight the Turkish city's great fire (see Bulletin No. 5). The same type of apparatus may be seen in Constantinople today.

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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The "Summer White Houses" of France and England

IN CONNECTION with the suggestion made by President Coolidge recently that "some place should be provided in the hills within easy striking distance of Washington" where the President might go for brief periods during the summer months, it is interesting to note that some European countries have allotted official summer residences to their executives.

Premier Baldwin runs up to Chequers in the Chiltern Hills; President Doumergue, of France, goes to the Chateau of Rambouillet, and President Masaryk, of Czechoslovakia, spent last summer at Lany, near Praha (Prague).

In Germany the press has been urging that President Hindenburg is entitled to a better country residence than the little block house near Berlin which served as a hunting lodge of the former Kaiser.

Chequers Was a Gift to the Government

Chequers, where Lloyd George, as the first official resident, made World War diplomatic history, came to the English Government in 1917 by gift from Lord and Lady Lee.

The familiar game of checkers has no link with the estate's name, which it owes to the pride an early owner took in his appointment by Henry II to the Exchequer. The accident of nomenclature is appropriate, however, since a frequent step to premiership in England is from the secretaryship of the treasury; that is, from the Exchequer to Chequers.

Its location, only 38 miles northwest of London, on the main line to busy Birmingham, puts Chequers within easy reach of the metropolitan "White House" at No. 10 Downing Street. In an hour Premier Baldwin can escape from the heat and noise of the city to the modest heights of the Chiltern Hills where his garden terraces command a view over the peaceful, green countryside sloping down to the Thames River.

Bailiff Dates from Bandit Days

In the days when these old hills were not so peaceful, Parliament regularly assigned a bailiff to the Chiltern Hundreds to put down the bandits and outlaws. The office still figures prominently in the proceedings of Parliament, although the outlaws have vanished. An appointment as bailiff of the Chiltern Hundreds, an office with no duties and, until modern times, a salary of but 20 shillings (about $5.00 per year) permits a member to resign with honor on the plea that, holding an office of trust from the Crown, he cannot remain in Parliament as a representative of his constituency.

Chequers' associations are chiefly with Cromwell, although he never entered the halls. Frances Cromwell, daughter of the Protector, married John Russell of Chequers and brought to the manor mementos of her famous father. Of these historic treasures the most important is the mask of Cromwell found a few years ago in a neglected corner.

Thirty miles southwest of Paris and halfway to Chartres is the Chateau of Rambouillet in the forest of Yveline, a vast wood which spreads over nearly 3,000 acres. A recent government inventory values the estate reserved for the President of France at $1,200,000.

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A VINE-CLAD HOUSE IN ONE OF COBH'S HILLSIDE STREETS

Bird cages are often hung outside in good weather. From 1849, when Queen Victoria first visited Ireland, until the establishment of the Irish Free State, the official name of Cobh ("Cove") was Queenstown (see Bulletin No. 2).

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Cobh, Where Steamer Passengers May Soon Transfer to Airplanes

WHEN the liner Celtic went aground off Cobh, or Queenstown, attention was called to a picturesque port of Ireland.

Cobh is now a port of call for many Europe-bound steamers, although the majority of passengers continue to British or continental ports. Many more will land at Cobh, however, if the proposed air service is established, linking Cobh with European capitals. Then the traveling time to continental points could be cut down by from 36 to 48 hours.

City is the Seaport of Cork

Cobh is the southern gateway to Ireland and the seaport of Cork. Ocean-going vessels can navigate the Cork harbor only as far as Great Island, on the south side of which Cobh is situated, twelve miles below Ireland's southern metropolis.

If the air service makes Cobh a port of debarkation Cobhites will have a chance to show their city to thousands who would ordinarily leave with but a panoramic view from anchorage, while Ireland-bound passengers are lowered to waiting tenders in the harbor.

Cobh is built on a series of terraces from the water's edge up the side of Great Island. On its wide quay all is business. The shops facing the thoroughfare are filled with shoppers and hotel lobbies, especially in vacation season, hum with the chatter of loitering guests and loungers.

Has One of the World's Oldest Yacht Clubs

In the street, one rubs elbow with merchantmen from distant ports, uniformed officers and men from visiting naval vessels and forts in the neighborhood, and yachtsmen from far and near who are guests at the Royal Cork Yacht Club, one of the world's oldest yacht clubs. Vacationists who spend much of their time on Cobh's fine beaches and health seekers who find that the city's mild year-round climate is beneficial, are also seen in the crowded street.

The town is best seen from atop a typical Irish taxi, the jaunting car. It is a slender, two-wheeled, cart-like vehicle over the wheels of which are two seats facing outward. Passengers become apt students of centrifugal force while rounding curves with a careless driver. The swaying shelves for the feet, over the hub of the wheels, remind the uninitiated of a rope swing attached to a hickory limb of boyhood days.

Nearly Every House Has a Harbor View

If one is not frightened by his perilous perch, it is a pleasant ride through the upper part of Cobh. The city is built on a series of terraces on the side of Great Island. Nearly every house has an unhindered view of the harbor. Americans can look out their hotel windows upon docks whose signs bear the names of American steamship companies in large letters, and in the channel just beyond a graceful American steamer rides at anchor. Smaller craft are continually moving to and from Cork and pleasure boats cluster about the Royal Cork Yacht Club like bees around a hive. Frequently one wakes up in the morning and finds that a cruiser, destroyer or submarine has crept up into the harbor during the night.

Cobh has many beautiful villas which dot the hillsides, but its principal attraction

Rambouillet has long been in the national domain. Francis I hunted in the sixteenth century through the same glades where President Doumergue follows the hounds to-day. Louis XIV and Madame de Maintenon came to Rambouillet as did Louis XV and the Countess de Toulouse. Napoleon flew into a temper when he saw medallions of the women of the royal family looking down at him as he was about to bathe in the Salle de Bains.

Then, in the middle of the last century, the estate was rented to a man who converted the palace into a roadhouse, but the government soon repossessed the property for a national residence. To-day the Chateau of Rambouillet offers its regal luxury in the service of democratic France.

Some of the gardens at Rambouillet are laid out in the English style. By a remarkable coincidence, which ex-Premier Herriot of France probably did not overlook when he visited ex-Premier MacDonald at Chequers, the garden plans at the English manor are in the French style.

Has Louisiana Cypress Trees

One of the glories of Rambouillet is a great alley of Louisiana cypress trees brought over when France commanded the mouth of the Mississippi. Rambouillet sheep, a breed highly esteemed in the United States, take their royal pedigrees from the French summer "White House" because Louis XVI brought to the estate a flock of merino sheep from Spain. The splendid agricultural tradition of Rambouillet has been continued by the École de Bergers, which maintains on the grounds one of the largest sheepfolds in France.

At the same time he established the sheepfold, Louis XVI built the Laiterie de la Reine, a model dairy-house, in appearance quite similar to the royal play farmhouse at Versailles. The Queen's Creamery is a tiny sandstone temple decorated inside with white marble. Cheese and butter were made on white marble tables still to be seen.

Bulletin No. 1, January 7, 1929.

Form for Renewal of Bulletin Requests

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The Disputed Chaco, Area of Indians, Orchids, and an Amazing Variety of Birds

THE Paraguayan Chaco, area in dispute between Bolivia and Paraguay, comprises a region larger than the States of New York and Pennsylvania combined. It is a vast territory inhabited largely by primitive Indians, and it is not to be confused with the better known Argentine region commonly called "Chaco."

Describing a journey up the Parana and the Paraguay to this vast and little known region, which so long has been a subject of disagreement, William R. Barbour wrote to the National Geographic Society:

"The Chaco was once a shallow inland sea, with its eastern border about where the river now flows. This sea eventually dried up, leaving vast swamps, with a salty or alkaline grayish sandy soil devoid of rocks. The river is to-day the dividing line, even the plant and animal life differing on its two sides.

Open Forests of Valuable Timber

"I was told that a few miles east of the river the country consists of high rolling hills clad with open forests of cedar and other valuable cabinet woods, and with running streams of clear water in the valleys.

"Our destination was Puerto Casado, some three hundred miles north of Asuncion and only a few miles below the Brazilian frontier. We reached it the next noon, leaving our ship to plow on several hundred miles farther, to its final stopping place at Corumba, Brazil, and catching it again on its return trip.

"Puerto Casado is the site of an old extract plant, small sawmill, and town of employees. The entire establishment, with seven million acres of wild land, extending across the Chaco to the Bolivian frontier, belongs to one Argentine family.

First American to Visit Puerto Casado

"We were made welcome by the major-domo and his assistants, including a Swiss, a German, an Italian, and a Japanese, all living together in peace and harmony and only too glad to do all they could for their infrequent visitors. They told me I was the first American who had ever visited Puerto Casado.

"To supply the extract plant with quebracho logs, a thirty-inch gauge logging road has been built due west into the jungle. A canvas-covered railway motor car was put at our disposal, and we made several trips to the end of the line.

"While most of the quebracho had been cut, a dense forest of other trees remained, with an impenetrable understory of cacti, thorns and trailing vines.

Tree Shaped Like a Tenpin

"Occasionally we passed small open spots, along the edges of which the curious tree called *palo borracho* was always conspicuous. It has the shape of a long tenpin or round-bellied bottle, with almost white bark studded with great green thorns. The wood is soft and spongy and the trunks are often used by the Indians for dugout canoes, to which purpose the shape lends itself admirably. Its flowers resemble yellow lilies and are followed by pods or bolls of a cottony substance.

"Another common Chaco tree is *palo santo*, whose aromatic, spicy wood smells like an old-fashioned rose jar. In many native houses this wood is the favorite fuel, for it gives off a pungent smoke which is said to drive away mosquitoes.

"Birds were all about us: white-tailed vultures, reddish-winged hawks, Para-

is its cathedral which dominates the whole town. It is a handsome Gothic structure of blue granite, adorned with pillars of Irish marble. From one corner rises a 300-foot spire topped with a gilt-copper cross.

Drake's Pool Commemorates Sir Francis' Visit

In 1587 when Cobh was a small fishing village Sir Francis Drake made an enforced visit there when he successfully hid his small fleet from a larger Spanish fleet which vainly pursued him for several days. Drake's hiding place now is known as Drake's pool.

It was still a fishing village when Queen Victoria landed at "Cove" or "Cork" in 1849 on her first visit to Ireland. Thereafter the town was known as Queenstown, Cobh being of recent origin. During the World War, Cobh was the headquarters of the American fleet in near-by waters.

Bulletin No. 2, January 7, 1929.

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WHY MANY PEOPLE DISEMBARK AT COBH, AND ALSO GO TO IRELAND BY OTHER ROUTES

These visitors are preparing to kiss the Blarney Stone. This ceremony has been observed by thousands of visitors since Father Francis Sylvester Mahony, known as Father Prout, the poet-priest of Cork, wrote the poem in which occur the lines, "There is a stone there, that whoever kisses, Oh, he never misses to grow eloquent." The stone is now accessible from the inside of the keep, whereas formerly the bold spirits who succeeded in kissing it accomplished the feat only by being held by the ankles, head downward, over the outside of the wall (where the iron spikes are to be seen in the picture). This view shows a fair young English visitor being held by friends while she is about to bend her head backward and downward a foot below the floor level to kiss the stone.

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How the World Is Shod

FAILING to wear shoes has been against the law in Portugal since October 1. Because of the many adults who have been in the habit of going barefoot, in the cities as well as in the country districts, the authorities, according to dispatches, are expecting difficulties in enforcing the new statute.

This unusual law draws attention to the great number of people in the world who still go unshod, and to the varied kinds of footwear in use, from the Polar regions to the Tropics.

The tropical countries are the strongholds of the great unshod. In Africa, parts of Central America, the northern portion of South America, and in southern Asia, the majority of the human feet are devoid of any covering through the seasons and from the cradle to the grave. In the cooler parts of the earth both vigorous weather and the greater activity of the people have made foot coverings necessary during the winter months at least.

Sandal First Type of Footwear

It is in the warm regions just outside the Tropics, such as Egypt and Mesopotamia, that we can trace civilization farthest into the past. There the slaves and lower classes could go comfortably throughout the year without protecting their feet, but the use of shoes for the upper classes developed at an early date. The primary consideration was to protect the bottoms of the feet, therefore the sandal was the first type of shoe to be invented. It was merely a flat piece of some protective material bound loosely to the foot. Since wood was difficult to obtain both in the Nile and in the Tigris-Euphrates valleys, sandals of crudely plaited straw and reeds were first used. Later the Egyptians made sandals and light shoes of beautiful workmanship from leather and kid.

In Palestine, the ancient Hebrews wore sandals made of a heavy piece of leather, of cloth, or less frequently of wood. A few of the latter, for rough use, were shod with iron. The Greeks and Romans, starting with a simple sandal, improved on it in time by adding edges that turned up along the sides and at the back. A network of thongs passed over the top of the foot and around the ankle, foreshadowing the closed shoe. The thongs became sheets of leather, and so shoes and boots were born in Europe.

Cold Climate Gave Birth to Boots

In Central and Northern Europe the cold winters made it necessary, of course, to cover the feet and legs when out of doors. In early times, crude sacks of skins were made. Grass was stuffed in under the soles of the feet and around them to add warmth. Later well-made boots of leather replaced this crude footwear. A parallel evolution took place among the American Indians and the Eskimos, where moccasins and soft close-fitting boots of skins came into use.

The Crusades, which affected the habits and customs of Europe so signally, marked the appearance of really serviceable leather shoes on that continent. Soon style began to play its part in shoe evolution. Toes were lengthened and curved upward until, among the fops, it became necessary to attach them to the knees—sometimes by golden chains. Sumptuary laws put an end to this development, and the fashion makers turned to heels. These were increased until forms like those of women's modern dress slippers were reached.

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guayan quail, long-tailed blackbirds, noisy green parrots, tiny jewel-bright humming birds, and small, pure white sparrows, which the natives call *monjas* (nuns).

Flowers as Large as Dinner Plates

"In open, swampy sites wild cannas, both red and yellow, grew by thousands. On the limbs of the trees were many kinds of orchids. The cactus was blooming in white, crimson, and yellow, some of the flowers being as large as dinner plates.

"Near the end of the line was a small settlement of Indians. They were living in rude, brush-covered shelters and sleeping in hammocks which they wove from the fibers of cactus. The adults of both sexes wore clothes doubled about their hips, supported by thongs over their shoulders.

"These Indians had become semi-civilized by occasionally associating with the whites, and once in a while they could be induced to work for a few days. Three other tribes—the Lenguas, Suhins, and Savapanas—live farther to the south and have been nominally converted to Christianity by several Episcopal missions established in the Chaco years ago. The Tobas, who live in the great swamps up the Pilcomayo River, and the Matacos, who roam the unexplored hinterland of northwest Paraguay, are still wild and fierce savages, who have destroyed or driven back the few expeditions which have sought to invade their territory.

"Beyond the end of the logging railroad, only thirty miles west of the river, all is unknown country. Nearly four hundred years ago a little band of Spaniards, traveling northwest from a point near Concepcion, after untold hardships, reached the settlements in Bolivia; but, so far as is known, the feat has not been duplicated.

"Some historians believe that the last remnants of the Incas escaped through Bolivia into the Chaco. At least there are tribes to be studied whose very existence is little more than hearsay, and traditions of strange beasts to be investigated, such as the great dog-headed snake which the Indians firmly believe lives in the deep fens. What a virgin field for exploration and research!"

Bulletin No. 3, January 7, 1929.

Photograph by William R. Barbour. © *National Geographic Society*

COUNTING THE FUEL OF AN UP-RIVER STEAMER

Above Asuncion, wood is the only fuel, and the unit of measurement is a stick averaging 11 pounds in weight. Counting fuel takes time, and although the Paraguayan does not mind this, the impatient foreigner is thankful that the fuel to be counted by hand is not nut coal.

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Smyrna, Famous for Figs and Victim of Many Disasters

SMYRNA, which has so often been a target for fires and earthquakes, recently experienced another disaster, a flood.

Earlier in 1928 Smyrna was assailed by an earthquake. Six years previously the city was swept by a fire. And the Turkish quarter which, almost alone, escaped the fire of 1922, was damaged most heavily by the earthquake of 1928.

One of the finest harbors in Asia Minor has encouraged men to rebuild Smyrna after every calamity. Turks call the city "The Eye of Asia" because it is the port through which Asia Minor looks west to the Mediterranean, to Athens, to Italy, and to New York.

One vaunted experience in the Near East is to sail at dawn through the 15-mile wide "Golden Gate" of Smyrna's harbor and watch the sun rise over gray Pagos, setting aglow the red roofs circling the margin of the bay. Usually steamers are lined along the stone quay, with their bows pointing landward. From that quay, reported severely damaged, the steamers load Smyrna figs from the Mendere River valley, Sultana raisins, Turkish tobacco, and Turkish rugs.

Appearance Belies City's Age

Smyrna is one of the oldest cities in the world, but it has slight appearance of antiquity. Containing all nationalities, Smyrna is of no nationality. Smyrna produces nothing, but exchanges everything.

From the ruined fortress on Mount Pagos the harbor and the quarters spread under the eye. There is the Turkish quarter with minarets and the black-green spearheads of funereal cypress trees, the Frankish (European) quarter with newer, finer buildings, the Greek quarter, Armenian quarter and the Jewish Ghetto. All of them except the Turkish quarter still carry the black scars of Smyrna's fire.

Was Greek Colony Under Turkish Flag

Before the World War Smyrna was the unofficial capital of the large Greek colony living under Turkish domination in this region. Grecians prospered by producing the figs, raisins and rugs to be sold by their countrymen in the United States. After the World War Smyrna Province was awarded to Greece, but the Turks recovered strength and routed the occupants. When the Greek army took to its boats a vast horde of Greek refugees crowded into Smyrna. While they waited for ships fire broke out, penning the mass on the quay between the waves and a fiery furnace. At least 10,000 lost their lives that terrible night.

In the six years elapsed Smyrna has gradually recovered. The camel trains again trail down to the city and now they are accompanied by honking American cars. New "movie" theaters line the quay where the horse-drawn trolley car has resumed service. Turks come down to drink coffee at the tables on the water front before going to see a "Wild West" thriller. Four American tobacco companies have resumed business. An oil company and a school contribute to the American colony.

U. S. Buys Figs and Tobacco

In return for American motors, movies, gasoline and education, Smyrna sends us principally figs and tobacco. The orderly delicatessen figs in the foreign-labeled boxes are from Smyrna. That is, the boxes are from Smyrna, while the figs come

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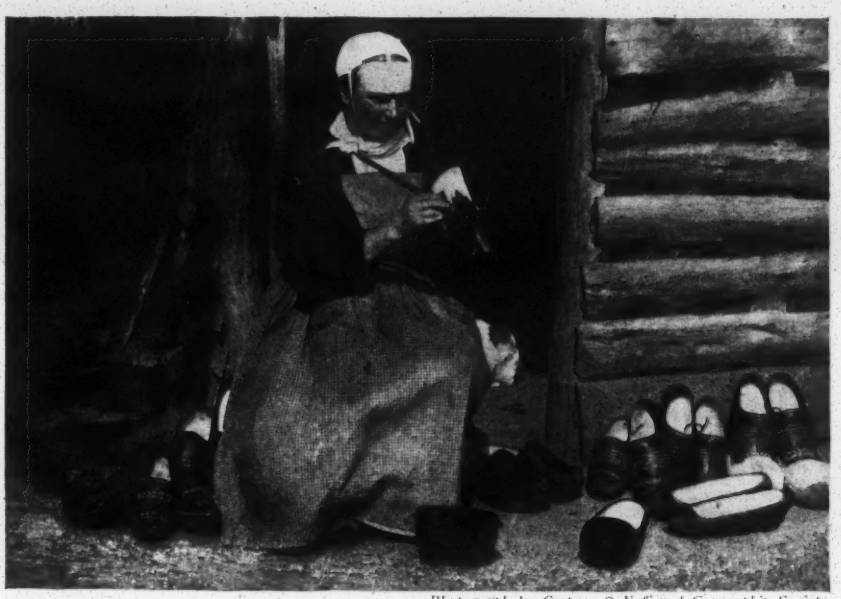
Although shoes of leather and other tanned hides of substantially the same form are now the generally accepted footwear of the West, millions of peoples both in the Eastern and Western Hemispheres still wear more primitive types. In India flat wooden sandals are worn by many, as well as sandals of leather and straw. In Japan sandals—chiefly of straw and wood—greatly outnumber shoes. Sandals are also worn by millions of feet in Mexico, Central America and northern South America. In the Near East grass and fabric coverings are still worn, and in Holland, Belgium, and northern France, sabots, hollowed out of solid blocks of wood, are the shoes of hundreds of thousands of people.

Shoes From Old Tires

In parts of the Near East the automobile age has brought a queer by-product shoe. Thousands of cast-off American automobile tires are imported, cut into pieces, and used as the soles for crude sandals. The "synthetic shoe" has also made its appearance. Cloth shoes with rubber soles have long been in use on tennis courts and gymnasiums. In recent years patented materials rivaling sole leather in toughness have been used as soles for some of the ordinary shoes made in America.

The greatest single factor in the development of modern shoes was the invention of shoe-making machinery. United States inventors were first in this field, and as a result the United States leads the world in shoe production. In 1926 more than 324 million pairs of boots and shoes were turned out by the factories of the United States. This one year's production was worth nearly a billion dollars.

Bulletin No. 4, January 7, 1929.



Photograph by Crete. ©National Geographic Society

DECORATING WOODEN SHOES: FRANCE

from the 150-mile long agricultural paradise of the Mendere Valley. The river that made it gives the English language the word "meander." Along the valley grows the Smyrna fig which has been introduced into California. Some years the export fig crop brings the equivalent of $3,000,000 to Smyrna.

Yet fate has never permitted Smyrna to consider its inherent riches; trade, harbor, climate and rainfall. Greeks, Macedonians, Romans, Tatars, Genoese, Knights of Rhodes, Venetians and Turks have tramped on one another's heels.

Bulletin No. 5, January 7, 1929.

Photograph by Gerstmann. *© National Geographic Society*

THE "CAMEL" OF SOUTH AMERICA

The llama as a beast of burden provides one of the oldest methods of transportation known to South America. It was domesticated so long ago that no wild members of the family remain. The ancient Incas extended their influence and developed their culture by raising and training thousands of these animals to carry burdens of from 50 to 100 pounds in weight for the construction of their difficult, stupendous engineering and agricultural works (See Bulletin No. 3).